

dividual should be the incarnation of a principle.' Mr. Bryan is the incarnation of a great popular principle—the principles embodied in that great speech at Chicago, which lighted a fire in this country that, by God's grace, I trust shall never be put out.

"No mere egotist could do what Mr. Bryan has done. The pronoun of the first person will not furnish a lasting foundation for a great reputation. If Mr. Bryan has been self-assertive, his self-assertion—instead of implying egotism—indicates self-absorption in a great work. The 'great' man who treats his greatness as if it were a private possession, is speedily, by a change of fortune, disillusioned, and his grandiose schemes come to naught. Mr. Bryan is not an actor seeking applause, but a social engineer, intent on developing power for a particular purpose. Such a man, without being an egotist, must not be too modest to lead or to keep his followers apprised of his whereabouts, and this not for the satisfaction of personal vanity, but to accomplish results. And results of the most satisfactory kind Mr. Bryan has accomplished. In a time of perplexity, the nation has found in him an interpreter; and it has accepted his interpretation. Mr. Bryan, though still in the prime of life, may be said to have wrought more for the good of his country and the people, than any man of his generation, and we are here on this anniversary of his birth to congratulate not only him but his state and nation, and to say:

How happy he, born or taught,  
Who serveth not another's will;  
Whose armor is his honest thought,  
And simple truth, his utmost skill."

#### GOVERNOR DUNNE'S SPEECH

Governor Dunne of Illinois spoke as follows: "I come in response to your courteous invitation to participate with you in doing honor to the great leader of progressive democracy on the fifty-third occasion of his birth. We in Illinois feel that no honor done to Secretary of State Bryan in the state of Nebraska or in any other state would be appropriate and completely rounded out without the participation therein of some representation from the state of his birth. Indeed, although in common with you, we are proud of the splendid and unparalleled achievements of this great man, still there lingers deep down in the hearts of the men of Illinois something akin to dissatisfaction that he ever should have left the state of his birth, the state of his education, the state that furnished him the ideal partner of his joys and sorrows, of his disappointments and successes, and the state within whose borders he first received his nomination for the presidency of the United States.

"It is the only episode in his whole admirable career to which we take exception. We are proud of our runaway boy but naturally can not forget his abandonment of his mother state. Why he should have left his nourishing mother and consented to his adoption by even the generous state of Nebraska, we, in Illinois can not understand. There is just one justification for his reprehensible conduct in this behalf. Although born on Illinois soil and educated in the schools and colleges of Illinois, we must admit that during the whole period of his early life he was compelled to live under standpat republican rule. This is the only excuse that he can give for leaving our great state, and taking up his home with you.

"And yet at the time he did so, my friends, it looked to me as though he jumped out of the frying pan into the fire, for if I recall aright, until he began his great struggle for the progressive principles in this state, the state of Nebraska was also hopelessly republican, and I think if he had remained upon the fertile soil of Illinois for a few years longer he might have succeeded in changing the politics of our state, for within a few years after his departure from Illinois we succeeded for the first time since the war of the rebellion in electing a democratic governor, and if we had had the assistance of his eloquent tongue, and wonderful brain, and pure morality, we could have held the state of Illinois in the democratic column from the day of the election of Altgeld until the day of our democratic triumph in Illinois last November.

"But his great services to progressive democracy and to the people of this country have condoned his early indiscretion in leaving Illinois; and I am here as the representative and chief executive of the state of Illinois, to vie with you in extending to him the congratulations of

a grateful people that he has so successfully earned.

"Great crises produce great men. As I look back over the history of America I find that there were three great crises in American life, all of them, it is true, political, but distinguishable. The first was purely political, the second was socially political, and the third economically political.

"The first arose out of the feeling of three men that taxation without representation was contrary to all principles of just government and that all governments should be founded upon the consent of the governed. This feeling in the first crisis brought on the revolutionary war during which the best blood of patriots was expended in overturning tyranny and in the creation of a new-born republic. This crisis produced great men, notably two, the one the statesman, Thomas Jefferson, and the other a patriot and a soldier, and as the outcome of this crisis a new republic was founded, and the name of George Washington has gone down in history as the ideal disinterested patriot.

"The second great crisis arose in the great social conflict which resulted from the determination of men to hold other men in bondage and to extend the jurisdiction of slavery throughout the United States. This resulted in the war of the rebellion, in the expenditure of untold blood and money, and in wiping from the laws of the republic and from our institutions the odious system of human slavery. This crisis also produced great men, the one a soldier, the adopted son of Illinois, U. S. Grant, the other the great philanthropist and humanitarian, and as the result of the great crisis the name of Lincoln has gone down in history as the ideal humanitarian and lover of human liberty.

"The third great crisis was twenty years ago. It was economic in its character. The almost inconceivable wealth of the country, owing to the advance of modern science, began to be developed to an enormous degree. Out of the mines and the forest and from the fertile lands of the country untold wealth was turned into the channels of commerce. Crafty and far-seeing men, seizing the production of this enormous wealth, began to devise schemes for its exclusive appropriation. They prevailed upon legislatures to enact laws which would concentrate the wealth of the country into the hands of the few. They enacted tariff laws which made the producers of this wealth practically free from competition. They established lobbies in congress and in legislatures and secured the placing of men upon the bench who would construe these laws favorably to the few.

"Early in this procedure William J. Bryan, then a young man, who practically commenced his political life in your great state, foresaw that the struggle from that time on would be between concentration and monopoly upon one side and equality of opportunity upon the other, between plutocracy and democracy, and with all the ardor and strength of the physical, mental and moral constitution with which he was so richly endowed by his Maker, he allied himself on the side of the common people. This great crisis and struggle lasted much longer than the other great crises that I have mentioned. The revolutionary war was closed in seven years, the war of the rebellion was over in five years, but the struggle between plutocracy and democracy, between monopoly and equal opportunity, extended from 1892 down to the year 1912. In every one of these battles between these contending forces William J. Bryan was easily the greatest leader of all the generals upon the democratic side.

"It necessitated ten different battles, many of them within his own party, the democratic party, because the forces of privilege and monopoly had done their work in his own party. In every national convention from 1896 to 1912 Bryan led the forces of progressive democracy upon the floors, and in the campaigns that followed, Bryan was the great leader under whose leadership the democratic masses went forth to battle. Ten of those battles were fought in his own party and Bryan and his followers came out victorious in every one of those battles.

"At times the issue was doubtful if not desperate, but under his gallant leadership, the democratic party in all its national conventions maintained its stand for popular rights. To his eternal credit he succeeded in writing into three of its platforms the ringing declaration that private monopoly was intolerable and indefensible. This alone, if he had done nothing else, would have marked his place among the foremost of Americans in American history. Indeed, if I were Bryan, I would be content to have

inscribed upon my tombstone after I had passed away the words, 'He was the author of the declaration that private monopoly is intolerable and indefensible.'

"He wrote 'The Prince of Peace' and 'The Price of a Soul.' In the other five battles, however, he was not so successful. Chosen on three different occasions to lead his fellow countrymen, he was overwhelmed by the powers of plutocracy and privilege, and yet he kept up the fight; yet he kept the faith. Four times his party went down to defeat, but the indomitable spirit of Bryan survived and he persisted and labored and fought, and in the final struggle in 1912, under the leadership of another great man and statesman and scholar and patriot, with Bryan as the chief marshal of the day, the forces of plutocracy went down to defeat.

"The great issue of this crisis was between plutocracy and democracy, between monopoly and equal opportunity, and was decided in favor of the people. This crisis produced two great men, Wilson and Bryan, and as the result thereof, the name of Bryan will go down in history as the greatest statesman and friend of the people that has appeared upon the pages of American history in the last century.

"I am here with you to do honor to the great men who made Wilson and democratic success possible. Were there no Bryan during all of the period between 1896 and 1912 there would have been no Wilson today. With the people of Nebraska, I uncover and do honor to the native son of Illinois and the adopted son of Nebraska, Secretary of State William J. Bryan."

#### MR. BRYAN'S ADDRESS

The Lincoln Journal's report of Mr. Bryan's address at the birthday banquet follows:

Mr. Bryan was called at the end of the toast-list. While admitting that he appreciated the kind words of the men who had just spoken before him, Mr. Bryan denied that he was the man who had brought about the final triumph of democracy.

"They forget that there are six million voters who deserve the credit," he said. "I am only one of the multitude."

Mr. Bryan devoted the fore part of his address to compliments to his associates on the toast list, his remarks during that part being largely of a humorous nature. He declared that he was unable to make a real speech, as he was too greatly overcome with joy and gratitude to do anything but give a few reminiscences of the battles of the past. He said in part:

"Neighbors and friends, I am not sure that I ought to have come to Nebraska at this time. I am sure that I would not have come had I known before how busy I was to be at this time. I was going to ask some of the cabinet members to accompany me to Lincoln, but when I found how busy they were in Washington was ashamed to ask them.

"I am glad to be with you, to be cheered by you and to feel the inspiration of your presence. What a delightful time we have had! I am going to try to get Edgar Howard appointed to the office of toastmaster of the administration. We have poet laureates; why not toastmaster laureates? I am sure I feel very grateful to my good friends who have come so far that they might break bread with us here tonight. It is fortunate for us that the Kansas legislature has adjourned so that the distinguished chief executive of that state could come. It is fortunate for us that there is a deadlock in Illinois so that its governor felt his presence would not be missed for a while. We are glad that Iowa has loaned us this private citizen. In any democratic state he would have long since ceased to be a private citizen. I appreciate the kind words of the great evangelist who turned aside his meetings in order to take part in this affair. I appreciate the very generous welcome extended by the democratic governor of this state. I was interested in the elections all over the country last fall, but I was glad to spend part of my time campaigning in Nebraska. I am proud of the fight the governor is making. When he is through neither he nor the democrats of the state will feel ashamed of his record. You all have my appreciation and my thanks.

"But what do you think of me, sitting here and hearing all these good things said about me. Don't think for a minute that I believe all these things. A man can honestly tell great untruths. In all these battles there has been no sacrifice on my part. Those who stand in a position of leadership get the benefits of the good will and prominence. These, the plain people of the state, co-laborers in all these fights, have given me all that I have. And it